

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Mexico Builds For the Future

**Better Life For All Mexicans  
Is Aim of President-  
Elect, Cortines**

MEXICO'S President-elect, Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, plans to push ahead with huge development projects for his country when he takes office next December 1. As successor to President Miguel Aleman, Cortines will continue the program for a new and better Mexico charted by Aleman during his past six years in office.

Simply stated, the Aleman-Cortines plan is (1) to boost the output of Mexico's farms and industries so that the nation's citizens will have more goods for their own use and for sale abroad; and (2) to raise the country's standards of health and education.

The election of Cortines, earlier this month, was a victory for the country's dominant political group, the Party of Revolutionary Institutions. The PRI has held the upper hand in Mexico's government ever since it was organized by President Lazaro Cardenas in the 1930's. Its membership includes people of all occupations—labor, agriculture, business, and the military services. The party's broad and large membership has been a big factor in making it possible for the PRI to get the votes needed to stay in power over the years.

As President, Cortines will not find it easy to solve Mexico's big problems. With more than 25½ million inhabitants, our southern neighbor has a land area about one fourth as large as that of the United States. Though it  
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**WEALTH FROM THE EARTH.** America has been fortunate in having vast stores of resources, such as the iron being mined here. As the known supplies are used, possible new sources are being sought.

## Are Our Resources Dwindling?

**Industrialists Search in Foreign Countries for New Supplies of Minerals  
as U. S. Faces Possibility that High-Grade Deposits May Be Exhausted**

A MAJOR pioneering job is being conducted in Canadian wilderness territory north of the St. Lawrence River. There preparations are under way for large-scale mining of rich iron-ore deposits. The iron is in a bleak and remote region along the boundary line that lies between Quebec and Labrador.

To reach this ore, a railroad approximately 350 miles long is being pushed northward from the St. Lawrence to a lonely outpost called Knob Lake. A large dam is being built to furnish electric power for mining operations. Machinery for construction of the dam has been carried to Knob Lake by air. Bulldozers, trucks,

tractors, power shovels, and sawmills have been flown in—piece by piece in many cases. A town big enough to take care of a thousand workers and their families is to be established in a region that was recently uninhabited.

This pioneering effort goes forward as part of the never-ending drive for new supplies of minerals. Modern industrial civilization uses minerals and other natural resources at a rapid and growing rate. Since World War I, it is estimated, the United States alone has consumed larger quantities of most minerals than the entire world used in all recorded history before 1914.

People in many nations are beginning to ask such questions as these: Is mankind soon going to deplete the world's supply of vital resources? Will our civilization eventually wither from exhaustion of the materials which support it? Or can we continue to find new deposits of iron and other minerals, new types of materials to take the place of those being used up, and new sources of energy for use when petroleum—and later coal—become scarce?

In how strong a position with respect to raw materials, Americans ask, is the United States? President Truman appointed a five-member Materials Policy Commission, early last year, to study this particular problem. That group's report, recently published, contains some startling figures about our consumption of minerals and other supplies. It points out that America now uses considerably more raw materials than are produced within her own borders. We import a large portion of the metals and other substances that our factories require. In 1950, for example, we imported more than half of our lead, over a third of our zinc, and about a third of our copper.

In the future, says the President's Materials Policy Commission, we shall face serious problems in getting enough raw materials to feed our industries. By 1975, declares the commission, we are likely to be using about 50 per cent more iron, copper, lead, and zinc than we used in 1950. Probably there will be far greater increases in the use of aluminum and magnesium.

According to the Materials Policy Commission, the main problem for the near future is not a danger that U. S. or world supplies of such substances will be completely exhausted. It is,

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Walter E. Myer

## Principles and Experience

**By Walter E. Myer**

SOME people profit by experience. Others do not. There are those who, when they face crises, remember how they have met

similar difficulties in the past. If their previous efforts were successful they adopt like practices. If their earlier ventures failed, they change the program and do a bit of experimenting. They thus develop general rules or standards to go by.

After a while their experiences cover a wide range. They have a set of rules which will carry them through almost any emergency. They have thought out most, or at least many, of the problems they will have to meet. When a time for action comes, they act in accordance with the standards which they have built up. They may be said to be principled. They have developed enduring philosophies of life.

There are others who lack either the intelligence or the character to build a set of guiding principles. They have as many experiences as do their principled friends, but they learn no lessons from these experiences.

They do not study the results of different acts and then generalize as to which sorts of behavior are best. When a new situation arises they deal with it on the impulse of the moment. They act as if similar problems had not been met before. They act capriciously. They have no guiding standards against which each day's conduct is to be squared. They are unprincipled in the sense that they are not held to a steady and dependable course by adherence to predetermined rules of conduct.

The unprincipled person will resort to little dishonesties and follies which seem to offer immediate rewards. The man of principle will scorn temporary advantages which involve the violation of trusted standards. He will see that, in

the long run, greater satisfactions come through adherence to rules of honesty and fair play.

Without being priggish or rigid in his standards of conduct, he gets into the habit of acting according to principles and of working for results which are to be realized over a long period of time. These two types of individuals are to be found in political as well as in private life.

Many of our politicians are pleasant and well-meaning men, whose weakness as public servants lies in their opportunism. Lacking the poise and steadiness which come from long reflection, they lose sight of major objectives and methods in looking for present gains. The man or woman, boy or girl, who wins the enduring confidence of associates, is the one who acts in accordance with ideals which have stood the test of reason and the test of time. Such a person also finds satisfactions in life that escape his unprincipled friend.



SO VAST are the changes taking place in Mexico that even the simple village life, which has remained the same for many years, will be affected.

## Mexico's Progress

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contains more land per person than does our country, Mexico is actually a crowded nation. This is because so much of its territory is taken up by mountains, desert, and jungle.

In desperate efforts to raise enough food to support themselves, the Mexicans have too often planted such field crops as corn on hillsides which wash badly when cultivated. Thus they have seriously damaged large areas of land, and they have still failed to produce a really adequate supply of food.

At the same time, the country south of the Rio Grande has a crying need for more schools and more adequate medical care for its people. Despite Mexico's all-out campaign to stamp out illiteracy, over one fifth of the nation's adults still cannot read and write. At the same time, such dread diseases as tuberculosis, typhoid, smallpox, and malaria have been taking a big toll in lives among the Mexicans.

It is true that disease will continue to burden the nation severely so long as the people have inadequate food, poor shelter, and few hospitals. But growing efforts to teach the people simple health rules are paving the way to overcome this problem.

Among the country's inhabitants in greatest need of help are the Indians. It is estimated that pure-blooded Indians make up about one fourth of Mexico's population. Many of them live in remote villages, using their own languages and following the ancient customs of their ancestors.

Yet these tribesmen are the descendants of people who, in past centuries, built great cities, temples, and pyramids in the land that is now Mexico.

Their forefathers were the Aztecs, who had their great capital where Mexico City now stands; and the Mayas, whose accomplishments in the field of mathematics, perhaps long before the birth of Christ, seem to have surpassed those of peoples then living in Europe and Asia. Even today, in their art, customs, and ceremonies, the Indians show remnants of these ancient American cultures.

### "Let's Do It Now!"

An American businessman, who visited our southern neighbor a short time ago, says this about the country's recent progress: "Mexico is alive with activity these days. Gone is the feeling of 'let's do it tomorrow.' The din of a 'let's-do-it-now' program can be heard across the land."

Until quite recently, Mexico's leading industries have been those which prepare her wheat, cotton, sugar, tobacco, coffee, leather, and sisal (used in twine) for market. Of growing importance now are the factories that turn out such varied items as steel, cement, glass, paper, and automobile supplies. The country's auto plants, for example, assembled more than 42,500 cars last year. The outlook is for an even better output this year.

To be sure, Mexico's industrialization program is in its early stages of growth. But the nation is advancing so rapidly that it is stepping ahead of other western hemisphere nations below the Rio Grande as a manufacturing center. New industries are opening their doors in many parts of the country. First-class highways are being built to help speed factory goods to markets. Mexico already has over 18,000 miles of paved thorough-

fares. It is constructing many additional miles of roads.

At present, the United States and other nations buy large quantities of Mexico's raw materials. Our southern neighbor is the world's leading producer of silver, and she is also rich in gold, copper, oil, lead, zinc, mercury, and iron. Besides exporting minerals, Mexico sells tropical fruits, valuable hardwoods, and richly decorated hand-made articles.

The country is not building up its industries at the expense of agriculture. In fact, some of the nation's most spectacular progress is being made in soil development and irrigation programs. Since one half or more of Mexico's tillable land does not get enough rainfall to grow good crops, large regions of the country must be watered if the nation is to raise the food it needs.

### Dams Are Being Built

Huge new dams, a few almost ready for use and others in the planning stage, will someday transform many acres of sun-baked land into rich farms. In the arid northwestern state of Sonora, for example, the new Alvaro-Obregon Dam will soon help bring the life-giving waters of the Yaqui River to nearly 650,000 acres of land. Farther east, on the Rio Grande, Mexico is working with Uncle Sam to build dams that will water 550,000 acres of dry farmlands inside Mexico. The new dams, of course, will also provide badly needed electric power for the growing industries.

One of Mexico's most ambitious development projects is now under way in an area of dry plains and steaming jungles near the Papaloapan River. In this south Mexican region, men and machines are building huge dams and irrigation channels, and they are clearing the lowlands of thick jungle growth. When the project is completed, an area about the size of our state of New Jersey will be converted to fertile farmlands.

Already, families are starting to move into the Papaloapan development. The government is giving poor farmers a chance to buy 30-acre tracts at low prices, to be paid for over a long period of time.

Mexico is also making progress in its fight against disease and illiteracy. The building of schools and hospitals is at the top of the government's list of "musts" for the years ahead. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes are being stamped out, and the fight against other diseases, too, is being waged with increasing success.

One of the nation's most impressive educational projects is the building of a new, 20-million-dollar structure to house the National University of Mexico City. When completed, the modern skyscraper university will have space for some 30,000 students.

As Mexico helps its farmers, builds factories, and, in general, aids its people to improve their living conditions, it needs outside help. The goods that the country now sells abroad do not pay for the industrial machinery and equipment it wants to bring in from beyond its borders.

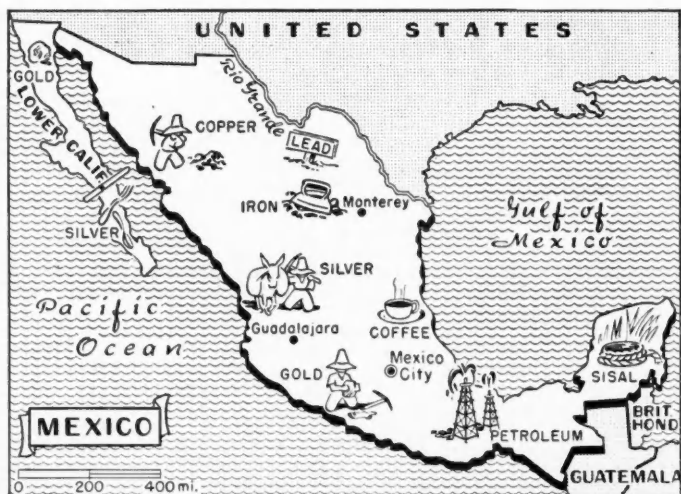
Within the past several years, the United States has granted some loans and has given other forms of assistance to Mexico. These, along with ever increasing investments by American businessmen, are making it possible for our southern neighbor to go ahead with its many special projects.

Mexico is grateful to the United States for help. And, for the most part, the two nations get along very well. A number of Mexican citizens, however, make no effort to hide their dislike for the "Yankees" to the north. What's more, this anti-American feeling is so strong that leading political candidates do not dare to profess friendship for Uncle Sam at election time. They would not find it easy to win an election if they did.

### "Cannot Forget"

When asked why they dislike their big neighbor, these Mexicans frequently reply: "We cannot forget that the United States took a large slice of land from us at the close of the Mexican War in the 1840's. Besides, Uncle Sam has, from time to time, meddled in our national affairs. Though the U. S. has been working for friendship with our country under the 'Good Neighbor Policy' since the 1930's, we still do not completely trust the powerful nation beyond our border."

The United States, of course, is making every effort to convince the Mexicans that we want to be their friends. We want to show Mexico that a powerful neighbor can be a trustworthy and helpful friend, and need not be a menace. To help explain our aims to the Mexicans, we are spending some \$750,000 a year on a special information program—one of the biggest programs of its type that we have undertaken in any foreign land. There is mounting evidence that the Mexicans' feeling of distrust for us is not nearly so strong now as it was some years ago.



MEXICO is rich in natural resources. Full use has not yet been made of them.



# Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The views expressed on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

**"Two Can Play at Sabotage,"** by Anthony H. Leviero, *Nation's Business*.

Officials don't discuss it, but we are training men to be spies, saboteurs, and specialists in the tougher forms of psychological warfare. They are being taught to slip into the Russian fabric on their own to do some unraveling.

The Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) is active in this underground retaliation work. So are elements of the Army and agencies of the State Department.

At this stage, the plan is to needle the Russians and their puppet stooges,



WALTER B. SMITH directs our nation's Central Intelligence Agency

to weaken their morale, confuse them, make them unsure of success in future aggressions. Premature uprisings or big-scale sabotage would only result in getting the leaders of fifth-column movements captured. The idea is to encourage and help these leaders but to keep them underground.

In 1948, for example, the Communists were trying to shove Italy behind the Iron Curtain. The danger was recognized and American agents went underground, along with anti-Communist Italians. They competed with the Communists as ruthlessly as the situation required, and thus played a decisive role in keeping Italy free. Communist influence in Europe has been receding ever since.

The underground war is being fought perhaps more bitterly in Germany than elsewhere, for in the American sector we have kept freedom alive at an outpost on the Iron Curtain where the Germans can readily make a comparison with the Russian system. Berlin is a battleground for German youth. Hitler corrupted one generation and we are trying to prevent the loss of another—to Stalin. When the Russians held one of their youth festivals in Berlin last fall, Americans did highly effective work in giving the kids an insight into the free side of the world.

There are many freedom fighters that Russia is not catching. They are swarming in and out of the Iron Curtain, among oppressed peoples, keeping a flicker of hope alive.

**"From the Sod to the Sidewalk,"** by Richard Neuberger, *New York Times Magazine*.

In spite of the lure of green fields the migration from sod to pavement continues. Although the farm is en-

joying more prosperity than ever before, there has been a decrease of six million farm workers in the past four years.

To explain why young people are going to the city, one farm lad said, "Living with my folks on the farm was all right, but I didn't see fellows or girls from one week to the next. When I went to the city, I could see other young folks all the time. The city's where I have a better time."

Fortunately the situation is not so serious as it would have been before farm machinery came into general use. A single farm hand with proper implements can cultivate as many acres today as six or seven hands did a few years ago.

Nevertheless, some steps are being taken to woo young persons back to the farm. State granges, farm unions, and other agricultural organizations are sponsoring various social events to help hold the next generation on the farm. Projects such as amateur theatricals, bookmobiles, and the like have been encouraged but these are not expected to turn the tide.

What chance is there for a movement back to the farm? Actually there is little in a period of full employment such as we are enjoying. More and more people are expected to forsake the farm for the city in coming years.

**"F-94C Nearly All-Automatic Interceptor,"** *Aviation Week*.

Lockheed's latest fighter-interceptor for the Air Force, the F-94C Starfire, is the nearest approach yet to an automatic warplane.

Designed as an all-weather jet interceptor with the specific mission of knocking out enemy bombers, the Starfire is armed with 24 rockets and uses electronic aviation aids.

Pilot, radarman, and 1,200 pounds of electronic equipment comprise the crew of the Starfire. Main job of the pilot is to get the plane off the ground and flying. He is directed to the target area by ground radar, and then he switches on the airborne interceptor equipment.

This collection of radar aids locks on the target, tracks it, closes the gap between the Starfire and its victim, aims the plane, and then opens fire. At takeoff, the F-94C weighs over



CLOSEST THING to an automatic warplane in the U. S. arsenal is the F-94C Starfire jet interceptor. It is flown largely by use of electronic aids.

20,000 pounds. It is 41 feet, five inches in length. The wing span is 37 feet, six inches. The Air Force says its speed is over 600 miles an hour. Top operating altitude is in the neighborhood of 45,000 feet.

**"America's Oldest Roads,"** by Victor W. von Hagen, *Scientific American*.

The bridge of San Luis Rey which snapped its cables on July 20, 1714, and hurled a company of travelers into the gorge below, was part of a road system that is one of the wonders of human history. This 200-foot suspension bridge and hundreds of others like it were the work of the ancient Incas of Peru.

The Incas built a network of 10,000 miles of paved highways. The roads stretched from Chile to Colombia, and from the Pacific across the Andes to the headwaters of the Amazon. The system ranks with those of Rome, Persia, and other ancient empires.

The Peruvian roads were broad, straight, and solid. In the main, the system took the form of two parallel turnpikes—one along the ocean, the other high in the mountains. The two roads, running the length of the empire, were connected at intervals by lateral roads which knifed through the hills.

The Inca engineers followed a sim-

ple rule in laying out their roads. They ignored obstacles and ran their lines over the shortest route. Over marshes, the road became a causeway. When the road came to a lake, it was securely floated on pontoons. When it came to a chasm, the engineers flung a bridge across it.

These suspension bridges are perhaps the greatest achievements of the Incas. The spans look frail, but they are strongly made of six-inch fiber cables anchored in solid masonry and laid with a floor of wooden laths lashed together and covered with coarse matting.

Like the Romans, the Incas built their roads primarily for conquest, then for tribute, and finally for commerce and communication. What makes them unique, however, is not their extent or their excellence, but the fact that they were built by a people who had never heard of the wheel. The Incas built the greatest footpaths in history!

**"Government Reorganization: 60 Per Cent Complete,"** *Business Week*.

The Citizen's Committee for the Hoover Report locked its doors, but it didn't throw the key away, after it had gotten Congress to write 60 per cent of its recommendations into law. They will save the taxpayer around \$2 billion a year in government operations.

Early next year the group will call on the new President. If it gets any encouragement, chances are it will be in business again—hammering away for reforms that didn't get through this year.

Leaders of the committee aren't a bit discouraged. Ex-President Hoover, chairman of the bipartisan commission that first suggested the changes in 1949, believes that the economies and reorganizations effected are the most important in United States history.

If the committee opens shop again, it will have just one goal—to push for the reforms that were rejected, either by President Truman or by the lawmakers—such as the transfer of Army civil functions to the Department of Interior and a reorganization of the Department of Agriculture and the Veterans' Administration. It figures these reforms would mean that something like 80 per cent of the original recommendations had been put into effect.



INCREASED USE of mechanized equipment on the farm has lessened the danger of low food production caused by the exodus of six million farm workers to the city in the past four years. The government is alarmed at the trend, however.

# The Story of the Week

## Mexico's President-Elect

Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, who will take office December 1 as Mexico's new President, has had a long career as a public official. Born in Veracruz in 1890, the only son of a customhouse agent, he studied accounting as a youth and worked in an importing firm's office for several years.

His political activity began in the early years of this century, when he took active part in the revolutions then shaking Mexico. During this period he served in posts ranging from military courier to private secretary on the staff of a general. In his last military job, Ruiz belonged to a commission that reviewed records of the armed forces.

The President-elect's first post as a civil servant came when, at the age of 32, he was appointed to the Council



ADOLFO RUIZ CORTINES is the newly elected president of Mexico.

of the Bureau of Statistics. After that he held increasingly important posts. At one time he was governor of his native state of Veracruz. For the past four years he has been Secretary of Interior in the cabinet of President Miguel Aleman, whom he will succeed.

Ruiz Cortines is a quiet man who avoids personal publicity and the gay life traditional for Mexican politicians. He has not made himself wealthy in public office as have many of his countrymen. One of his often repeated campaign slogans was "I was poor as a boy, and I still am." His honesty, even his political opponents admit, is above question. Mexicans hope his term of office will mean prosperity and progress for the nation.

## Two-Party Cooperation?

Republican and Democratic Party leaders will sit down together to discuss the nation's global policies, if Wisconsin's Republican Senator Alexander Wiley has his way. Senator Wiley wants the foreign affairs experts of the two parties to form a special advisory group to thresh out differences on vital issues regarding our relations with other nations.

The special body, the Wisconsin legislator believes, should specifically strive to keep our foreign policy actions on an even keel during the trying election and post-election days, before the next President is inaugurated.

Of course, Wiley says, cooperation by the two parties on global matters should not stop them from critically appraising one another's foreign

policy views. At all times, the GOP lawmaker insists, Republicans and Democrats should freely discuss the good and bad points, as they see them, of their opponent's world programs.

Senator Wiley's proposal for bipartisan cooperation at election time is not an entirely new one. Something like it was attempted, on a limited scale at least, in 1944. At that time, GOP Presidential nominee Thomas Dewey discussed some vital war issues with top leaders of the Democratic Administration.

## Aid for Indonesia

Six American PT boats are being sent to aid the young Indonesian Republic in its war on smugglers and immigrants who enter the country illegally. The boats are to be manned by Indonesian sailors, and are equipped with radar and other navigation devices. They will be used to patrol waters surrounding the more than 3,000 islands that compose the Republic.

The Indonesian government says the smuggling and illegal immigration contribute to the current critical food shortage there. The nation is a million tons of rice short in its supply each year, President Achmed Sukarno reports. He calls beating the scarcity a case of "life or death."

## Korean Election

On one matter, at least, the people of the Republic of Korea are breathing easier now. The long-standing feud between President Syngman Rhee and the National Assembly over the manner of selecting a President seems to have been patched up. A compromise between the President and the lawmakers has paved the way for Presidential elections.

The feud began when Rhee insisted that the Assembly should not elect the President, as the constitution provides. Instead, Rhee proposed, the constitution should be amended to permit the people to choose the President. Rhee's proposal was bitterly fought by several Assemblymen, who claimed that he was trying to insure his own reelection. Opposition to Rhee in the Assembly was strong enough to prevent his election, his critics reasoned,



ABC'S IN KOREA. These Korean youngsters are attending an elementary school set up by GI's somewhere in Korea. The soldier here spends an hour a day reading to the children and teaching them about life in America.

but in a nation-wide election he could be sure of winning.

After Rhee had threatened to close the Assembly unless it gave up its right to elect the President, the lawmakers accepted a compromise. Under this plan, the Assembly amended the constitution to allow the people to elect the President. In return, the Assembly got a bigger voice in appointing the Premier's cabinet, a right formerly held by the President. An election under the new arrangement will be held soon.

Meanwhile, the war on the Korean peninsula continues, and United Nations forces are stepping up their attacks on Red military concentrations. UN leaders hope that the new blows will discourage communist stalling at the truce talks. Aircraft from the United States—mostly jets—are arriving every day. In the past few weeks the UN has landed several knock-out blows on important Red targets, including a power plant in North Korea and several big supply dumps.

## Budget Blues

At the federal government's Bureau of the Budget, workers are studying piles of bills sent them by Con-

gress before it adjourned earlier this month. The workers want to see how far the money that Congress authorized for government expenditures will go in the current fiscal year—the period for which the government keeps its accounts. The present fiscal year began July 1, 1952, and will run to June 30, 1953.

In the last fiscal year the government spent \$4 billion more than it collected in revenues. With expenses of \$66 billion, the government collected only \$62 billion. Although this difference, or deficit, was less than the Bureau had predicted for last year, it was a big change over previous years. In the 1950-51 fiscal year, for instance, the government had a surplus of \$3.5 billion, with expenses totaling \$44.6 billion.

Defense expenditures were the main cause of the rise in government costs last year. The three branches of the armed forces spent almost twice as much during the year just ended as they had the preceding year. Increased income to the government—primarily from taxes—helped to offset these expenses and to keep the deficit down to \$4 billion.

## Iranian Troubles

Last week Britain had begun to hope that the year-old oil dispute with Iran might be settled. This possibility was seen not long ago, after Mohammed Mossadegh had resigned as Iran's Premier and Ahmad Gavam had been appointed to succeed him. Britain's hopes were dashed, though, as quickly as they had risen, for Gavam resigned after only four days in office.

Iran's troubles began a year ago soon after Mossadegh took over the British-operated oil wells. With British technicians gone, the Iranians had difficulty in operating the wells. To make up for the loss of revenue that Britain paid Iran in connection with sales of the oil, Mossadegh cut government expenses drastically.

These moves weren't enough to save Iran, though, and this month Mossadegh asked the Parliament to give him dictatorial powers so that he could initiate other reforms. Parliament



LINK WITH THE PAST. Words written centuries ago are being read today, as scientists study 900 ancient clay tablets inscribed in the first written language, Sumerian. The tablets were found in Iraq, in the ruins pictured above.



didn't act upon his request. Later the Shah refused to approve his bid for a stronger control of the armed forces, and Mossadegh decided to quit.

Whoever Iran's Premier may be, the problems connected with oil will not be solved easily, for other events have begun to complicate the situation. Recently the government has gotten some of the wells producing again, and Iranian officials say there are customers for the oil. But the would-be buyers can't get the oil delivered. Britain won't haul oil which she believes rightfully belongs to her businessmen and she has warned other nations not to buy or haul it.

Last month an Italian company chartered a non-British tanker to pick up some oil. On the return trip bad weather forced the ship into the British port at Aden. There it was impounded on the ground that its oil belonged to British owners. The ill-will that results from incidents such as this one may put a damper on any attempts to settle the dispute.

## The Oilmen

"Fill it up, please," are familiar words, but few of us are aware of the story behind each tankful of gasoline that we buy. What are the steps that go into the making of gasoline and the many other oil products we use every day?

This question and others relating to the oil industry are answered in a new picture-story called *The Oilmen*, by Thomas Hollyman. Published by Rinehart & Company, *The Oilmen* gives a photographic account of the work done by hundreds of men and women in the nation's vital oil industry. Here, in brief, are some highlights of the book:

Scouring the countryside and the coastal areas, geologists hunt down clues which may lead to new oil deposits. If there is evidence that a region may contain petroleum, additional tests are made. Then, if the outlook for the black fluid is still promising, an oil company representative gets the owner's permission to start drilling.

Next, a well-trained drilling crew takes over the job. Using huge, expensive drilling equipment, the crew bores holes in the ground—sometimes

to a depth of from one to three miles. At times, this operation may cost an oil company a million dollars and then the sought-for prize may not be found.

Of course, a number of wells do "come in." The crude oil from the ground is then channeled into pipe lines which ultimately reach the refineries. Especially trained men must constantly see to it that the oil flows smoothly through these arteries.

In refineries, which resemble cities with towers, tanks, and other apparatus, the crude oil is converted into gasoline, pest sprays, and a thousand other products. From there, the oil products are delivered to filling stations and stores over the country.

## U. S. on Trial

For the first time in its history the United States is a defendant in a case before the World Court at The Hague in the Netherlands. The French government has accused the American government of acting unfairly in behalf of U. S. businessmen in the French protectorate of Morocco.

France says U. S. citizens are flouting French law by claiming immunity from certain taxes imposed by the French on imports. The French also say American money policies in North Africa are producing a black market in francs.

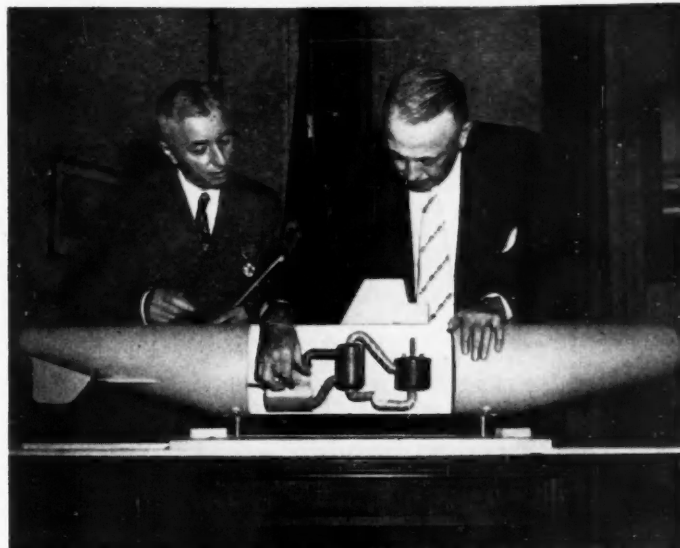
The United States claims its citizens have a right to disregard the French taxes because of a treaty our government made with the Sultan of Morocco in 1836. We have even asked for refunds of the taxes already paid to the French government by some Americans.

Our country as a member of the United Nations must abide by the rulings of the 11-judge court. The decision in this case is not expected to be reached for several months.

## Phony Germ-Warfare

Delegates at the conference of the International Red Cross, now meeting in Toronto, won't find germ-warfare listed as a topic for discussion. Nevertheless, Red Cross officials expect the Soviets to repeat their past charges that the United Nations is using germs against the communists in Korea.

The Red Cross has been interested in this matter ever since the commu-



**ATOMIC SUB.** Secretary of the Navy Dan Kimball (right) inspects a model of the Navy's atomic submarine, the *Nautilus*. With him is Captain Hyman Rickover who played an important part in the development of the ship. For his work Rickover received a high award from the federal government.

nists launched their germ warfare accusations last year. UN leaders then promptly denied the charges and asked for an on-the-spot Red Cross investigation. Soviet leaders rejected this proposal, and went right on making their charges.

What's behind the communists' germ-warfare propaganda campaign? Some observers believe the Reds are trying to explain the outbreak of epidemics in North Korea and communist China. Moreover, it is believed, the Soviets want to use the germ-warfare theme as a propaganda weapon to rally Asian sentiment against the western nations.

In recent months, Russian officials have repeatedly tried to use meetings of UN agencies to amplify their accusations. They haven't gone far with this tactic, though. When the charges came before the Security Council, the United States moved that the Council invite Red Cross officials to make an investigation. Although other Council members approved this resolution, Russia killed it with a veto. That is where the matter now stands.

## Good-bye, Amerika

Not many people know of a unique agreement which the Soviet Union made with the United States in 1944. Under its terms, each government was allowed to publish a special magazine for the other's people. In our country the Soviets published the *U.S.S.R. Information Bulletin*. For the Russians we published a picture magazine, *Amerika*, about life in the United States.

At first, things worked pretty well under the agreement. Soviet officials, who distributed *Amerika* through a government agency, placed few restrictions on it. From an original circulation of 10,000, *Amerika* soon boomed to a peak of 50,000 readers. Russian readers liked it so well that they even bought old copies at high prices.

In 1947 the picture changed. Russian officials began to cut the number of copies which they would distribute. They also began to censor the articles in the magazine. On the other hand, our government did not interfere with

the circulation of the Soviets' *Bulletin*, and it did not censor the magazine.

With that in mind, the State Department a few days ago took a step which it felt was necessary. It suspended the publication of *Amerika* and ordered the Soviets to stop publishing their *Bulletin* here. Some day, our officials hope, the two magazines may be published again—but only when the Soviets allow *Amerika* the same freedom which the Soviets' *Bulletin* has gotten here. "We stand as always we have stood," State Department leaders explained, "for freedom of information. But we want it to work in both directions."

## Two Atlantic Records

In the never-ending friendly competition with our neighbors for setting travel records, the United States claimed two this month. For the first time in a hundred years, a U.S. passenger liner won the speed title for crossing the Atlantic. The new *United States*, on its first Europe-bound voyage, broke the previous record of the British *Queen Mary* by 10 hours.

In making the crossing in 3 days, 10 hours, 40 minutes, the *United States* averaged 35.6 knots. The return crossing was also a record breaker—and again it was the *Queen Mary* whose title fell.

A flight of two Air Force helicopters from the United States to Germany gave the U.S. another record. This, however, was not a speed record. It was the first time helicopters had ever flown across the Atlantic.

To make the journey, the 'copters were fitted with long-range gas tanks which cut down the number of stops necessary for refueling. The purpose of the flight, Air Force officials explained, was to show that 'copters could make such a long range trip.

## Correction

In our issue of July 21, we stated that Senator Richard Nixon was the youngest senator serving in the upper house in 1951. Actually, the youngest senator at that time was Russell Long of Louisiana, a Democrat. We regret the error.



**OIL.** The United States produces half the world's supply, yet must import millions of barrels a week. Drillers like the man in the photo above, are daily sinking new wells in an effort to keep up with the growing demand.

# Policy Commission's Proposals on Resources

(Concluded from page 1)

instead, the prospect that our basic materials will become harder and more expensive to obtain, as the richest deposits are used up.

The commission urges private interests and the government to seek ways of conserving scarce materials, and to step up the search for undiscovered mineral deposits. It also makes a highly controversial proposal that our nation do away with certain of its restrictions against buying raw materials from abroad.

We should, says the five-man group, frankly recognize the fact that America needs large quantities of foreign supplies. We should be eager, the commission goes on, to conserve our own diminishing mineral deposits, and to draw upon the deposits of nations which can produce more raw materials than their own industries use. Numerous Americans, however, oppose such a policy on the grounds that it would seriously harm our own producers of minerals and various other raw materials. We should, it is often argued, use tariffs and other devices to give our mineral industries some protection against foreign competition.

## Other Policy Differences

As has been mentioned, we are already buying sizable quantities of minerals and other raw materials from foreign sources. Nobody argues that we could or should stop such purchasing altogether, but many people think it should be held to a minimum. The President's Materials Policy Commission, on the other hand, thinks it should be expanded.

A material we are almost sure to purchase from foreign countries in larger and larger quantities, during future years, is iron ore. As of 1950, U. S. steel mills were getting 92 per cent of their iron ore from deposits within this country. Our supplies of high-grade iron, however, are beginning to dwindle.

Steel companies are therefore looking elsewhere for supplies. One of their major steps is the project for developing the great ranges of iron ore along the Labrador-Quebec border. Another is the purchasing of iron from Venezuela. The development of an iron-mining industry in tropical wilderness areas of that South American nation is a tremendous undertaking, but sizable quantities of ore already are being shipped out. Much of it goes to the Bethlehem Steel Company's plant at Sparrows Point, near Baltimore, Maryland.

Despite the growing interest in foreign sources of iron ore, our own country is going to continue for a long time as an important iron producer. Extensive plans are being made for the use of comparatively low-grade iron ores that are abundant within the United States. It is hard to extract the iron from these low-grade ores, but we shall do it increasingly as the supply of richer material runs down. Our steel companies will soon obtain iron from a lean, stubborn ore called *taconite*.

The United States, and the world in general, will find adequate supplies of iron for a long time to come, but we shall need to stay on the lookout for new deposits, and to improve methods of refining low-grade ores.

Somewhat the same situation exists

in connection with aluminum, a metal whose production and use has skyrocketed during recent years. Less than a century ago, aluminum was so rare that it sold for nearly \$550 a pound. Now it costs only a few cents a pound, and we expect to produce more than a million tons this year.

Aluminum comes largely from an ore called *bauxite*. World supplies of the ore are fairly plentiful, but scientists are already thinking about the time when other sources of aluminum will have to be found. It should be possible to fill mankind's aluminum needs almost indefinitely, since that

furnish energy to run our machinery. Dependence upon machines is one of the outstanding features of our modern civilization. It is estimated that machinery now does about 95 per cent of all physical work in America, while only 5 per cent is done by men and animals. A century ago, on the other hand, machines did only 6 per cent of the physical work. In many parts of the world, even today, they do scarcely more than that.

Petroleum, natural gas, and coal are our major energy-producing fuels. About a third of all the power and energy used in our country comes

Second, we are developing more efficient methods of tapping underground oil pools, so as to bring the largest possible amount of petroleum to the surface. Third, scientists have learned to produce gasoline and oil from certain types of shale and from coal.

So far as coal is concerned, there is no immediate danger of running short. In our own country, for instance, it has been estimated that we have enough to last several centuries.

Another major energy source, considerably different from the fuels, is water power. We depend on it for over a fourth of the total U. S. electricity supply. Many people feel that it should be used more extensively than at present, since it is a resource that is constantly renewed by rains and melting snows.

## New Sources of Power

In the future, man may use still other means of driving his machinery. The power of the atom is already being harnessed to propel submarines, ships, and military aircraft. Eventually it may fill a sizable portion of our peacetime energy needs. Scientists hope sometime to obtain power directly from the rays of the sun, and it has also been proposed that the motion of the tides be harnessed. But it will be a long time before these sources can come anywhere near replacing our present ones. Perhaps they never can serve so well for some purposes as do today's fuels such as gasoline, oil, natural gas, and coal.

The President's Materials Policy Commission did not devote a great deal of attention to prospects for the distant future, but it did mention briefly this phase of the resources picture. Its report raises the hope that we can eventually reach much farther into the earth than today's mines go, and can bring up minerals from deep deposits that are still undiscovered. It mentions scientific progress in atomic energy, in the development of plastics and synthetic materials, and in other fields.

Man-made plastics may become available in sufficient varieties to fill our needs as supplies of iron and other metals are exhausted, many authorities believe. Already the development of a new plastic auto body has been reported. Many types of plastics can be made from materials now regarded as waste—such as corn cobs or cane stalks. Glass—actually a form of plastic—serves us in an ever-increasing number of ways, and it is made largely of sand.

But the President's Commission warns us not to accept the "romantic notion" that something will automatically be discovered to replace each resource which we exhaust. If we are to find enough new materials to fill our needs as the old ones vanish, a vast amount of attention must be devoted to scientific research—more attention than is now being given, the commission believes.

Moreover, we must guard carefully against waste. We need not be miserly. We need not be afraid to use our resources, so long as we use them sanely. But we must avoid reckless squandering, for man is going to run a close race in his effort to maintain adequate supplies of vital materials.



OUT ON A LIMB? Is Uncle Sam going to lose his wealth of natural resources through unwise conservation practices? The nation hopes not.

substance is believed to be the most abundant of all metals. Many deposits of its ores, though, are extremely low-grade; and it may be difficult and expensive to refine the metal from them.

The President's Materials Policy Commission devoted most of its attention to industrial minerals. But another important resource is the soil, which year after year produces crops of food, wood, and fibers. The soil has been carelessly handled, and we have allowed vast stretches of land to be seriously damaged by wind and water erosion. There are farming methods by which the land can be fairly well protected against erosion, and we are making a good start—though only a start—at using them.

## Substitutes for the Farm?

Can plants, for food and other purposes, be raised from chemical tanks in great quantities? Can we "farm the sea," so as to get much more food from the oceans than we now obtain? Perhaps we can do these things, but we need to save our soil too. We cannot afford to waste this resource, which provides a livelihood for millions of farmers, and for which the human race could probably never find a really adequate substitute.

Among our most vital materials are the fuels and the water power which

from petroleum products. Demand for gasoline and oil in the United States has shot upward during the last few years. We produce over half the world's petroleum supply, but even this is not enough to satisfy our needs, so we buy approximately a million barrels per day from abroad. Other industrial nations rely less heavily on petroleum, and more heavily on coal, than we do.

## Too Pessimistic?

It is easy to become pessimistic about our future petroleum supply. The world's known oil reserves—in North America, Latin America, the Near East, and elsewhere—are huge, but they are being used at a rapid rate. Some experts believe that U. S. oil production will drop to a fairly low level within the next 25 years.

There are, though, some bright spots in the picture. In the first place, geologists point out that we really don't know how large our oil reserves are. Since 1938 we have used as much petroleum as our country's known reserves contained at that time. But, since then, we have discovered more oil than we have consumed. This process could continue for many years, because—as the oil men say—a lot of petroleum can be found where it isn't supposed to be.



## Study Guide

### Resources

1. Where have U. S. steel mills been getting most of their iron ore?
2. What sources of iron ore are to become increasingly important to us in the next few years?
3. Since aluminum is thought to be the most abundant of all metals, why shall we eventually face some sizable problems in producing it?
4. Name some destructive forces that threaten our soil.
5. How does this nation's present use of machines compare with the extent to which we used them a century ago?
6. Why are some people becoming alarmed about our petroleum supply? What are some of the bright spots in the petroleum picture?
7. Name a few sources of energy we may tap in the future.

### Discussion

1. On the basis of your present information, do you or do you not believe that the dwindling of resources will eventually cause a crisis for mankind? Explain your position.
2. Do you or do you not agree with the President's Materials Policy Commission in its recommendation that our government take measures to encourage the buying of more raw materials from abroad? Give reasons for your answer.

### Mexico

1. Tell briefly what President-elect Cortines hopes to accomplish as leader of Mexico.
2. Of what party is Cortines a member? Why has this group held the upper hand in Mexico's political life for a number of years?
3. Why hasn't Mexico been able to produce enough food for its people in past years?
4. Is our southern neighbor making any progress with its industrial program? Explain.
5. What is the Mexican government doing to help boost the nation's food supply?
6. Where does Mexico get the funds it needs to carry out its many projects?
7. Why do some Mexican people dislike their northern neighbor? What are we doing to overcome "anti-Americanism" in Mexico?

### Discussion

1. Which of the problems confronting Mexico do you think most needs a speedy solution? Explain your answer.
2. Do you favor continued American aid to Mexico as one way of strengthening the ties of friendship between the two countries? Why, or why not?

### Miscellaneous

1. What change has been made in the Korean republic's election machinery?
2. What expenditures were chiefly responsible for the federal government's \$4 billion deficit during the past fiscal year? What is a fiscal year?
3. Why is it said that countries such as Great Britain and France have "two heads of state"?
4. What are some of Switzerland's major industries?
5. Why has the publication of the magazine *Amerika* been suspended?
6. Why has the International Red Cross been unable to investigate charges that United Nations forces are using germ-warfare in Korea?

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WHO CARES what the President does? Everyone, it seems. This White House clerk is looking over 7,000 advisory telegrams received from the public on just one issue. Keeping tab on public opinion is only one of the difficult jobs of the Chief Executive. Such telegrams aid him.

### U. S. Presidency

## It's a Mammoth Job

THE man who wins the coming Presidential election will get one of the biggest jobs in the world. Under our system of government, the Presidency combines positions and responsibilities which some nations divide between two officials.

Great Britain, for example, has a monarch and a Prime Minister. Queen Elizabeth II, the monarch, is official head of the nation. She serves as a living emblem of national unity. In her official acts—when she gives automatic assent to laws passed by Parliament, or when she makes ceremonial public appearances—she symbolizes Britain itself. When the present Queen was a small child, she used to call King George V her "Grandpa England." Although she may not have fully realized it, this name was a good description of his position.

### Busy Life

A king or queen leads a busy life. Queen Elizabeth II, says a London journal, must "read and sign a ceaseless stream of papers . . . receive dignitaries from home and abroad . . . visit exhibitions . . . confer decorations . . . inspect troops . . ." and undertake long tours. She must make herself familiar with all sorts of governmental problems, so that she can confer with cabinet ministers and give them helpful suggestions. A monarch who rules for many years can acquire a vast fund of knowledge and give valuable advice to the elected and appointed officials.

The actual job of making major political decisions and administering laws, though, is directed by a Prime Minister. As holder of this position, Winston Churchill is the real leader of the British government. Thus, Britain makes a distinction between the leader of the government and the symbolic head of the state.

In America we seldom recognize a difference between the two jobs, because the same person—our President—fills them both. When he officially greets foreign ambassadors or visiting presidents or gives the Medal of Honor to a war hero, he acts as ceremonial head of the nation. When he urges Congress to pass or reject a

bill, he acts as leader of the national government.

Our system and that of the British are both widely used. Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and the Philippines are among the nations that have Presidents but no monarchs or prime ministers. Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Japan, and various other countries have systems like the British, with monarchs as well as prime ministers or premiers. Canada and several other free members of the British Commonwealth have prime ministers, yet they recognize the British monarch as ceremonial head of state. In most of the Commonwealth countries outside Britain, there are governors general who act as the monarch's representatives.

A country need not have a king, queen, or emperor in order to separate the offices of national chief and government leader. France has a President who corresponds to the British monarch, and a Premier who corresponds to Britain's Prime Minister. The same is true of Italy and several other nations.

Technically, it is also true of Russia. The Soviet president, whose official title is "Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council," is a man named Nikolai Shvernik. Joseph Stalin, Russia's dictator, holds the office of Premier.

In most of the democratic countries which have two top officials instead of one, there is a "parliamentary" system of government. Under such a system, the prime minister cannot stay in office unless he is supported by a majority in the nation's main legislative body. The monarch or president may help select a new prime minister when the old one is forced out.

Many people favor the parliamentary plan because it does away with the possibility of long deadlocks between the lawmakers and the top administrative leader—deadlocks such as sometimes occur between Congress and the President in our country. Other people say it is a good thing for the lawmaking body and the chief executive to be able to check and balance one another. It is also pointed out that in some parliamentary coun-

tries—notably France—the office of prime minister or premier is continually changing hands, because no prime minister can keep the support of a majority of the lawmakers.

There is little likelihood that the United States will adopt a parliamentary system of government, or will divide between two officials the duties that the President now handles. Once a country has grown accustomed to a particular system, changes are very difficult and not always successful.

### Gradual Development

Great Britain has built her present governmental arrangement through many centuries of gradual change. Long ago, the monarch had far more power than Queen Elizabeth II possesses today, and the various ministers were responsible almost entirely to the King or Queen. They actually worked under the monarch's supervision. As democracy grew, the Prime Minister and his helpers became chiefly responsible to Parliament. The monarch's direct control over administrative affairs passed into the hands of the Prime Minister.

Some of the men who helped establish the United States government wanted our country to have a king, but this idea was discarded. The American colonies had just revolted against Britain's King George III. They didn't want another monarch.

The founding fathers wrote, in our federal Constitution, that the "executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." The Constitution does not specifically declare that the President is to be America's highest-ranking official—ceremonial head of the nation as well as our strongest single officer—but he is so regarded because of the power and authority he holds.

The Constitution *does* make him Commander in Chief of the armed forces, give him authority to name judges and other officials, permit him to approve or veto acts of Congress, and designate him as the person who receives foreign ambassadors. The idea of the Presidency as our nation's top position was confirmed when George Washington, who had already



"IT'S STRANGE that so many want to ride him."

become a great national hero, was installed as the first Chief Executive.

We doubt that any American President has seriously urged this nation to choose a pair of officials—president and prime minister, for instance—to handle the tasks the Chief Executive now performs. If all the men who have held the office, though, could meet together, they probably would agree that the Presidency provides enough work for two people.

## Background for Today's News

# Mountainous Switzerland

**L**UCKY is he who vacations this summer in Switzerland. That tiny land in the heart of Europe is a paradise for fun and rest. Switzerland is more than just a playground, however. It is a model democracy. Its living standard is one of the highest in the world. Its scientists, engineers, and manufacturers are known around the globe for their inventive brilliance and the high quality of their goods.

**THE PEOPLE.** The population of about 4,700,000 is made up of four special groups. About 75 per cent of the people trace their ancestry to ancient Germanic tribes (Teutonic, Alemannic). They speak an Alemannic dialect called *Schweizer Deutsche* (schveetzer dootch), which resembles German but is of different accent and rhythm. Publications are written in regular German.

Another 25 per cent of the Swiss are of Latin origin. Fifteen per cent speak French, nine per cent speak Italian, and about one per cent speak Romansh. The last is somewhat like ancient Latin.



MAP FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY CHA. G. HIGH IN the mountains of south-central Europe lies tiny Switzerland

**THE LAND.** Switzerland's small area of only 15,950 square miles is about one two-hundredth the size of the United States. There are some lowlands and valleys, but almost three fifths of the country is mountainous. The lofty Alps run across southern Switzerland and northward along the eastern and western frontiers. In the west, the Alps blend into the Juras—a chain that rarely rises more than 5,000 feet above sea level. The highest Alpine peak is Monte Rosa, 15,217 feet. It and a number of others are snow-capped the year around. Glaciers cut their way between the mountains in some areas. One of Europe's famous rivers, the Rhone, gets its start in Switzerland from melting glacial ice.

The climate is pleasantly cool in summer and, in winter, rarely much below freezing in the lower regions where most of the Swiss live.

**RESOURCES.** Switzerland has large forests and streams and waterfalls that are harnessed to produce electric power. The country has no coal and, except for small amounts of iron ore, practically none of the metals needed in big industry. The mountains, which draw tourists, and the people, who work hard, are Switzerland's biggest assets.

**AGRICULTURE.** Most farms are small, from 1 to 25 acres in size. Some are perched on the side of a mountain or on terraced hills, and others are in the lowlands and valleys between the mountains. Most of the work is by hand, for it is difficult to use horses or machinery on the small farms that often slope at dangerously sharp de-

grees. Grapes for making wine, corn and other grains, and vegetables are leading crops. The raising of livestock—cattle, pigs, and goats—is by far the chief agricultural occupation.

The fine Swiss cattle are the pride of their owners. The animals are kept in barns near the farmhouse, or, very often, in sheds adjoining the house during the winter. In late spring, several farmers get together and drive their cattle high into the Alps to graze. The herdsmen camp out during the summer to watch the cattle and to make cheese. With the coming of fall, there is a roundup. A cow is selected as queen of the herd and is decorated with gay ribbons. Led by the queen cow, the other cattle and herdsmen descend to the lowlands. There the farmers divide among them the season's production of great wheels of cheese. An auction is held, and each farmer collects the money for the cheese he sells. Then there is a harvest festival with much dancing and singing.

**VACATIONLAND.** Switzerland often is called the playground of Europe. Thousands of vacationers go there at every season of the year. Some like the skiing, sleighing, and skating during the winter season, which starts at Christmas time and, in the higher mountains, lasts until April or May. Others prefer the spring or fall for a lazy time in the sun. Most vacationers pour into Switzerland during the summer—when they can swim and sail, walk in or climb mountains, walk over a glacier (with a guide), bicycle through the country, or—if they are determined—go skiing in the mountains 2½ miles above sea level.

**INDUSTRY.** Everyone knows that the Swiss make tasty cheeses and fine watches, but many Americans often do not realize that the Swiss are big manufacturers. They build locomotives and railway cars, bridges, airplanes, submarine motors, and almost every type of heavy machinery. They make dyestuffs, drugs, and chemicals. (The Swiss were among the first to develop DDT, the anti-insect spray.) The Swiss food industry is important and did much to popularize powdered coffee and bouillon cubes.

The textile, clothing, and shoe industries are big money-makers. Swiss table linens, embroidery, patterned



EWING GALLERY

**SWITZERLAND** is noted for its scenic beauty. Many an American traveler has seen this view of Davos Platz in eastern Switzerland. It is one of the world's most famous winter ski spots and has a number of tuberculosis hospitals.

silks, rayons, and cottons are known around the world. So are Swiss shoes, especially those for women. Swiss clothiers claim to be originators of the slide fastener which we usually call a zipper.

The Swiss are specialists in the making of radios (including complete broadcasting stations), telephones, telegraphic and other communications apparatus. They make organs and pianos of high quality—and those music boxes that play tinkly tunes, mouth organs, and accordions.

**TRADE.** The Swiss must buy large amounts of food and practically all of their raw materials from other lands, so they must trade to live. Tourism and the sale of manufactured goods bring in money, but not enough. The Swiss make a big part of their income as world bankers. Their money is backed by gold and attracts investors from many countries. The Swiss lend large sums to help other nations develop their economies. Swiss insurance firms are represented in every part of the globe.

**RAILWAYS.** Lying in the center of Europe, Switzerland is a crossroads for rail traffic north and south, east and west, and tolls charged other lands for use of Swiss tracks are an important source of income. The railway system itself is a marvel of engineering. The total length of the railway lines running over, around, and through mountains is 3,367 miles with 4,928 bridges and 658 tunnels. The famous Simplon tunnel connecting Switzerland and Italy is 12.3 miles long.

**GOVERNMENT.** Switzerland is a democratic federation of 22 cantons or states. It has a two-house parliament, the Federal Assembly, whose members are elected for four-year terms. The assembly chooses the cabinet for a four-year term and then selects a cabinet member as President. The President serves for only one year, during which he does both cabinet and presidential tasks. At the end of the year a different cabinet officer is chosen for the chief executive's post.

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS.** Switzerland's basic foreign policy is designed to protect the country's neutrality and to keep the nation out of war. With this policy, the Swiss managed to get through the two world wars without becoming entangled in the fighting.

**DEFENSE.** While determined to keep out of other people's wars, the Swiss are ready at all times to fight for their democracy and against invaders. Their plan of defense is keyed to the mountainous terrain. Strong fortifications exist in the mountains. Hangars for fighter planes are built by blasting away rock deep in the heart of a mountain. Vast food stores and munitions, too, are cached inside hollowed-out mountains.

Men may be called for military service of some kind while they are between the ages of 20 and 60, and they must take training at regular intervals.



WENHLE & VOOGA, ZURICH

**COMMUNAL BAKERY.** In many Swiss villages the families come together to bake bread in the same oven. Loaves from one baking may last six months.